

against the basic policy/objectives of Prasar Bharati/Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that such website links for betting do not function in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has given rights for the internet on a non-exclusive basis to M/s TWI-Stracon India which would run concurrent to the agreement signed with them for selling the air-time in the territories outside India during the telecast of the cricket matches played from January, 2000 to September, 2004. They would be responsible for creating and maintaining the official website of Doordarshan. It had come to the notice of the Prasar Bharati, that this website was being used for betting purposes. Prasar Bharati, immediately got the link to betting site removed from this website. Betting is punishable under the law and any offence in this regard will be dealt with as per the laws of the land.

Foreign equity in Indian Broadcasting Sector

***4034. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to allow cent-percent foreign equity in Indian Broadcasting Sector;
- (b) if so, whether Doordarshan and All India Radio have raised objections to this decision;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government don't subscribe to this point of view; and
- (e) if so, the factual position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.